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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1943

BY

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1943.

*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the
Taunton Joint Isolation Hospital and Somerset County Council
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton:*

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Sanitary Inspector:

R. H. GARDNER, C.R.S.I. (appt. March, 1911)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. G. PAYNE, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936)

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium:

Miss M. E. MOSSMAN, S.R.N.

Address: Taunton Isolation Hospital,
Cheddon Road.
Telephone: Taunton 2396.

Clerk to the Council:

P. O. COWLISHAW, Mary Street House, Taunton.
Telephone: Taunton 2285/6.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1943.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1943 ...	18,300
Census Population, 1931	17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books, on December 31st, 1943	4,932
Rateable value 31st December, 1943	£99,837
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1943	£425

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 13.66
Legitimate ...	230	118	112	
Illegitimate ...	20	12	8	
	<u>250</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>120</u>	

Still Births—Total 5.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	19.60
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	0.27

Deaths—Total 209.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11.42
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Total 1.

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil.	Nil.
From other Maternal Causes ...	1	4.0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Total 9.

Legitimate ...	9
Illegitimate ...	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ...	36.0
,, legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.0
,, illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	29
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live births	per 1,000 civilian population	...	...	16.5
Still births	„ „ „	...	...	0.54
Deaths, all causes	„ „ „	...	...	12.1
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	2.29
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	49.0

Causes of Death during 1943.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes—Total	107	102	209
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	8	—	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	—	2
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	2	6	8
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious Encephalitis	1	—	1
Cancer of buccal cavity, œsophagus, uterus	2	1	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	5	6
Cancer of breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	10	7	17
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	17	14	31
Heart disease	28	29	57
Other disease of the circulatory system	1	4	5
Bronchitis	10	7	17
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Other respiratory disease	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other digestive disease	2	4	6

Causes of Death during 1943 (continued).

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total.
Nephritis	2	5	7
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature birth	2	1	3
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	—	1	1
Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	4	—	4
All other causes	7	9	16

Infant Mortality during 1943.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformation	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infanticide	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	4	1	—	—	5	2	—	2	—	9

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities remain as described in the Report for 1938. Cothelstone Manor Hostel for unbilletable evacuees such as enuretics, problem children, etc., continues its good work. Sick evacuees or those suffering from contagious diseases are admitted to Belmont Sick Bay in Taunton Borough for treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Circular 2773 from the Ministry of Health states that no reference should be made to activities in connection with war-time extensions of water supply or sewerage works or other public utility undertakings. Public cleansing was described in the Report for 1939; since April 1st, 1942, the only addition has been that the Council collect household refuse from all the parishes in the Area. The average amount of collection per month is 45 three-ton lorry loads.

Salvage of the following materials was made during the year:—

			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	...	...	106	1	0
Iron	...	...	197	11	0
Non-ferrous Metals			—	14	2
Bones	...	...	15	13	2
Rags	...	...	11	6	0
Rubber	...	...	13	5	—
Jam jars	...	...	168 dozen.		

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—				
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	22
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	401
Bakehouses	...	...	...	44
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	...	...	...	81
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	310
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	...	...	...	4
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	26
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	88
Number of Notices served during the year:—				
Informal Notices	...	...	...	34
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	0
Result of service of Notices:—				
Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	34
Notices standing over at the end of 1943	...	...	...	0

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops, 26 visits have been made.

Camping Sites. The local authority have not found it necessary to issue any licences in respect of these, as advertised camping sites appear to fall within Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. There has been no necessity to take action under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as there have been no complaints.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are not any in the area.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. No Council or other houses have been found to be infested with bed-bugs.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the area are satisfactory. Owing to the number of school-age evacuees in the area, accommodation has been found for them in various village halls, institutes and clubs.

Offensive Trades. There is one Offensive Trade in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for Tripe Boiling.

Public Water Supplies. The four public supplies have been examined quarterly and have on each occasion proved satisfactory.

Bakehouses. There are 21 Bakehouses in the district and 29 inspections were made to them. Seventeen Bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of milk, no other foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

Meat Supply. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughterhouses, and the meat after inspection is distributed over a very large area within and without the district. The inspection of meat under these conditions takes up a large portion of the time of the two Sanitary Inspectors. The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the number of parts thereof condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	0	3	17,256	247	23
Number inspected ...	0	3	17,256	247	23
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	16	5	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	0	2	120	45	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0	66.0	0.78	20.2	4.3
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	0	1	19	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	33.0	0.11	0	0

The following were also condemned as being unfit for food:—

61 tins of Corned Beef.	10 cwts. Potatoes.
2756 tins of Fruit Juices, Soups, Condensed Milk, etc.	5½ tons Apples.
84 lbs. Cereals.	264 lbs. Fish.

Milk Supply.—274 inspections were made to 369 registered premises in the area, and 136 samples of milk were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist. The analytical results are as follows:—

Designation.	No. of Samples taken.	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.	Percentage unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	45	39	16	35.5
Accredited	75	58	17	22.66
Examined for tubercle bacilli	16	15	1	6.2
	136	112	34	25.0

These results are far from good.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—6 cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register 369

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 14

(b) Distributors who are also Producers 35

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order, the following licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin Tested producers 13

Accredited producers 21

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District but which is not produced therein.

HOUSING.

There have been 3 cases of overcrowding during the year, all abated. There are 1,036 less evacuees in the district than in 1941.

Three houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney, Stanmore and North Curry were given temporary licences for re-occupation; and three others at Creech St. Michael, Stoke St. Gregory and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers and covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them in such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary wartime measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of a house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (a) to replace unfit dwellings; (b) to abate overcrowding; (c) for other reasons.

From a preliminary survey of the District it is probable that 35 houses will have to be dealt with under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 23 areas involving 56 houses under Sec. 25 of the same Act, making a probable total of 91 unfit houses.

Having considered all the factors, the Council decided to erect, during a period of 5 years, 213 dwellings plus 150 more in the parish of West Monkton if present conditions there continue as a permanency. The following parishes require these houses:—

Ash Priors	2	Churchstanton	6
Bickenhall	2	Combe Florey	4
Bishops Hull	20	Corfe	4
Bishops Lydeard	16	Cothelstone	3
Cheddon Fitzpaine	—	Creech St. Michael	12

Curland	2	Ruishton	6
Durston	2	Staple Fitzpaine	—
Halse	4	Staplegrove	4
Hatch Beauchamp	—	Stoke St. Gregory	20
Kingston	6	Stoke St. Mary	4
Lydeard St. Lawrence	8	Thornfalcon	4
North Curry	20	Tolland	2
Norton Fitzwarren	12	Trull	12
Orchard Portman	—	West Bagborough	6
Otterford	4	West Hatch	6
Pitminster	6	West Monkton	16

The Council also decided on a one-year building programme as follows:—

Bishops Hull	8	Stoke St. Gregory	6
Bishops Lydeard	2	Thornfalcon	4
Combe Florey	2	Trull	4
Creech St. Michael	4	West Bagborough	4
Curland	2	West Monkton	10
Lydeard St. Lawrence	4		

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Up to December 31st, 1943, the following individuals were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompanied Children	188
Accompanied Children	53
Mothers, Helpers, Teachers	102
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TOTAL	343
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This is 1,036 less than in 1941 and 257 less than in 1942.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table summarises the total number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurring during the year (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	At all ages.	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up.
Scarlet Fever ...	26	—	6	17	2	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	90	4	22	54	8	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	17	—	7	10	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Paratyphoid "B"	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	14	1	2	1	—	3	6	1

Some of the notification rates for Taunton Rural District may be compared with those of England and Wales in the following table. The rates are per 1,000 civilian population with the exception of Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births.

		Taunton R.D.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1.42	3.01
Diphtheria ...	...	0.05	0.88
Measles ...	...	4.92	9.88
Whooping Cough	...	0.93	2.54
Erysipelas ...	...	0.16	0.31
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0.05	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	0.05	0.08
Pneumonia ...	...	0.76	1.34
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	3.99	11.68

The District is one of the Constituent Authorities forming the Taunton Isolation Hospital Board. The Annual Report of the work done there during 1943 will be found at the end of this Report.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. The Immunisation Scheme commenced in Taunton Rural District during 1941. The following figures show how the scheme is progressing, but relate only to Somerset children and not Government evacuees:—

Year.		Pre-school Children. Age group 0—4.		School Children. Age group 5—14.	
1941	446	1,563	
1942	92	155	
1943	211	137	
TOTAL		...	749	1,855	

Estimates of the child population in the above age groups show that approximately 53.1 per cent. of pre-school children and 70.0 per cent. of school children have been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Ages in Years.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	...	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	...	...		—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
10 — 15	...	..		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 — 20	...	...		2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	...	...		3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 35	...	...		3	4	—	1	2	—	—	—
35 — 45	...	...		2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 — 55	...	...		—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
55 — 65	...	..		3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	...	...		—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
				13	8	3	3	8	—	2	—

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Prevention of Blindness.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sec. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of Blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are promptly notified to the applicable Department of the County Council and so obtain early treatment and if necessary in the Isolation Hospital.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Report of the Medical Superintendent for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hospital administration during the year ending December 31st, 1943, has not been easy owing to the difficulty of obtaining Staff, Nursing and Domestic, in quantity and quality. Nevertheless, the Board's new Matron has met these war-time difficulties with cheerfulness and good administration and the Staff as a whole may be congratulated on the work accomplished during the year, and their help to me.

It may be noted that during the year under review there were 301 admissions and 8,847 patient days compared with 259 admissions and 7,289 patient days in 1942.

There were 4 deaths from the following diseases:—Meningitis due to Tuberculosis 2, Puerperal Sepsis 1, Congenital Syphilis 1.

Three operations were performed, one Caesarian Section by Mr. Lailey and two Tonsillectomies by Mr. Graeme Allan.

A tabulated statement as to the Infectious Diseases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year is appended at the end of this report, as well as the admissions, discharges and deaths at the Sanatorium.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

Medical Superintendent.

Isolation Hospital,

Cheddon Road, Taunton.

14th March, 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM. .

Admissions:				Discharged:				Deaths:			
Males	...	20		Males	...	9		Males	...	9	
Females	...	12		Females	...	7		Females	...	5	
		<u> </u>				<u> </u>				<u> </u>	
TOTAL	...	32		TOTAL	...	16		TOTAL	...	14	
		<u> </u>				<u> </u>				<u> </u>	

Total Patient Days—6,998.

Artificial Pneumo-Thorax Refills—63.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL BOARD.

Tabulated Statement for 1943.

DISTRICT.		Admitted.	Brought forward.	Remaining Dec., 1943.	Discharged.	Died.	Patient Days.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Diphtheria "Carrier".	Rubella.	Mumps.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	C.S.M. Contact.	Lymphocytic Meningitis.	T.B. Meningitis.	Chorea.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Contact Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Cellulitis.	Food Poisoning.	Tonsilitis.	Chicken Pox.	Contact Chicken Pox.	Septic Abortion.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Contact Infants.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Nursing Mothers.	Paratyphoid "B".	Constipation.	Vincent's Angina.	Dysentery "Carrier".	Impetigo.	Cow Pox.	Multiple Neuritis.	Cheiropompholyx.	Rhinorrhœa.	Erythema.	Heat Stroke.	Gonorrhœa.	Gonorrhœa Contact.	Meningismus.	Influenza.	Parturition.	Baby.		
Taunton Borough	...	99	20	13	105	1	3004	35	23	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	13	1	4	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		
Wellington Urban	...	22	4	1	25	0	794	16	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Taunton Rural	...	38	1	10	29	0	1210	25	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wellington Rural	...	27	2	1	27	1	1028	22	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Bridgwater Rural	...	25	1	4	22	0	847	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dulverton Rural	...	5	0	0	5	0	172	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Authorities	...	21	0	0	20	1	496	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
War Office	...	5	0	0	5	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Maternity & Child Welfare.																																																			
Somerset C.C.	...	40	3	0	43	0	931	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taunton Corporation	...	12	0	0	11	1	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Cases.																																																			
Private Cases	...	1	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff	...	6	0	0	6	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	
TOTALS		...	301	31	29	299	4	8847	124	24	2	3	8	1	1	2	1	5	20	2	10	1	1	2	10	4	2	3	32	8	5	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1

